

being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor; and

a multiplexer to multiplex the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the motion-picture signal portions have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding by the subsidiary coding processor are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which same motion-picture signal portions have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding by the main coding processor in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.

7. (Twice Amended) A method of efficiently coding a moving picture signal, comprising the steps of:

selectively encoding an input moving picture signal by intra-picture coding or inter-picture coding in unit of frame or field to output a main bit stream;

encoding motion-picture signal portions in specific frames or fields carried by the input moving picture signal by only intra-picture coding to output a subsidiary bit stream, the same motion-picture signal portions being also coded by the inter-picture coding by the selective encoding; and

multiplexing the main and subsidiary bit streams so that the subsidiary bit streams for which the motion-picture signal

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portions have been encoded only by the intra-picture coding are periodically inserted in the main bit stream for which the same motion-picture signal portions have also been encoded by the inter-picture coding in the vicinity of a predetermined number of the frames or fields coded by the inter-picture coding, thus generating an output bit stream.

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